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PICAYUNE, NEW ORLEANS,

NO MISCONDUCT IN CARD DISPLAY

Giarrusso Reports on Shaw Print Issue

Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso said Monday he can find no evidence of misconduct on the part of Ptn. Aloysius Habighorst regarding his possession and display of a fingerprint card of Clay L. Shaw.

Giarrusso said an investigation into the conduct of the patrolman has revealed that the public knowledge of the incident was precipitated by one of the local television reporters and was not initiated by Habighorst, the local police department or the district attorney's office.

In a statement, Giarrusso said, "The report revealed that officer Habighorst had cleared his appearance on television through James Alcock of the district attorney's office as well as through the police department.

"My initial inquiry into this matter was my concern for one of the three official cards (police department, state police and FBI) that are taken routinely when a set of fingerprints are taken from anyone arrested."

Giarrusso said the investigation further revealed that five copies of the department's fingerprint form were made of Shaw, following his arrest on March 1, 1967, instead of the regular copies.

"In this particular instance, two sets of the prints that were taken were not ideal for classification and identification and a copy was retained by ex-officer James Millet, and officer Habighorst as reference material. The retention of a copy of a report in a pending criminal matter by one of the officers involved in a case is not an unusual circumstance. This is done many times in order that an officer familiarize himself with the facts prior to the time he must testify in court.